

SENATE BILL 555

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 17 and Title 44, Chapter 8, relative to  
vicious animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1307, is amended by adding  
the following new subsection (e):

(e)

(1) A person commits an offense who knowingly possesses a vicious dog  
and has been convicted of a felony involving the use or attempted use of force,  
violence or a deadly weapon.

(2) For purposes of this subsection (e), "vicious dog" means any dog  
that:

(A) Has a propensity to attack, to cause serious bodily injury to or  
to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings without provocation; or

(B) Is trained to fight, attack or kill or has been used to fight.

(3) An offense under subdivision (e)(1) is a Class E felony.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.